

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **QUIN**
County : **CLARE**
Category : **B**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 03-07-2002

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 2002	Mark Awarded 2001
Overall Developmental Approach	50	34	33
The Built Environment	40	33	32
Landscaping	40	35	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	22	22
Litter Control	40	33	32
Tidiness	20	13	14
Residential Areas	30	24	23
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	29	29
General Impression	10	8	8
TOTAL MARK	300	231	227

Quin, Co. Clare

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for submission and detailed sketch map. What a welcome surprise for this adjudicator to visit Quin after some years and witness the great progress in evidence. You still need a development plan that will chart the way forward as you enter a higher league in this competition. Ideally, you should liaise with Clare County Council and Shannon Development and formulate a three to five year plan that will have community input and agreement. A small committee on its own is not adequate for the apparent needs of this fast growing community. The village is endowed with a plethora of historic buildings and traditional features. Some modern buildings are now challenging these traditions and the task for you is to find an acceptable balance.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The public buildings mentioned last year look well again and the Abbey continues to dominate the historical aspect of the village. There is a welcome colour in the village core of well presented houses, reflecting great individual effort. The school is attractive, but the tubs outside need cleaning at the bases. The Credit Union is a bit strong in colour and the next painting should consider a softer appearance.

LANDSCAPING

This is now your strong point. The effort in evidence here is most praiseworthy. Indeed, the high numbers of floral and shrubbery areas needing attention is way beyond the norm. Happily, the work of previous years, e.g. the fountain and landscaped area at the entrance to the Abbey, is very well maintained. Well done on the new developments to housing estates. Almost every entry point is richly embellished with welcome floral displays and, bearing in mind the time demand on these presentations, you have done excellent work. The treatment of the stone wall and grassed area fronting the old water tower is very attractive. The simple, though effective picnic area and viewing point gives a first class view to the abbey. The

bridge treatment with flowers is quite effective and adds colour. The car park at Malacy's Pub is poor and the stables opposite need painting.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

The presence of the River Rine, the many approach roads, open spaces, old walls and landscaped areas combine to offer you great opportunity for the promotion of wildlife. Listing the local popular wildlife and erecting a display board illustrating same would be a good start. There are valuable marks to be gained in this section.

LITTER CONTROL

Unlike disappointing experiences of previous years, the control of litter in and around the village is praiseworthy. Indeed there was no obvious problem with litter. The litterbin outside the school should be replaced.

TIDINESS

As mentioned last year, your problem in this section related to poorly presented signs with many needing painting. Because of the great amount of building currently underway, a good deal of untidiness is evident at unfinished sites. Your other problem areas relate to derelict and unoccupied houses, some on the approach roads and some in the village core. However, the value of these sites may well lead to restoration or replacement in the short-term.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

New housing schemes should be welcomed in Quin as they instil a role of confidence in the future. Some of these houses are a bit too modern in presentation and developers should be mindful of the historical and traditional aspects of the village. The standard of maintenance, especially on the village centre is excellent. The private garden beside St. Theresa's is superb. Some road surfaces are below standard and this is a job for Clare County Council. Approach roads are good and present a favourable image for the village. The Ennis approach is excellent and sets a standard for others to pursue. The Sixmilebridge approach could be improved with some grass trimming. Quin Meats is a gem and most unique. The treatment of the village pump is attractive, together with the Grotto.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A very fine performance on top of your much improved performance of last year. The village has an air of caring about it. Its work on floral displays, in particular, is very good. Your challenge now is to hold your standard on the praised areas and tackle the poor areas needing attention. Well done on raising your marks.

SECOND ADJUDICATION (05/08/02)

The positive comments of the first adjudicator are heartily endorsed by the second. However, under the heading of Tidiness, the village was somewhat less well cared for at the time of second adjudication, resulting in one mark lower than earlier proposed. There was considerable weed growth during the intervening weeks, as one would expect in a wet summer, especially noticeable along the kerbside on the Ennis road, but also in a number of other areas. One does not expect the field in front of the Abbey to be maintained as a lawn, but thistle, dock and nettles should not be present in any field. Earlier plantings of the attractive boxes on the bridge seemed to have been deposited on the path below instead of removed. On second adjudication day there was considerable litter at the delightful viewing point on the Tulla road. This was unfortunate,

but the kind of thing that has to be anticipated during the holiday period. Otherwise, Quin was a delight to visit, and seems to be rapidly approaching the top of the county marking in this competition.